

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

SAJ-01 MBFR-04 EB-11 COME-00 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01

DRC-01 /125 W

----- 033039

R 071350Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6719

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS HELSINKI 2391

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, FI

SUBJECT: PRESS SPECULATES ON FINNISH SIGNING DATE
FOR EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AGREEMENT.

REF: HELSINKI 2378

BEGIN SUMMARY. MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AHTI
KARJALAINEN INFORMED THE PRESS SEPTEMBER 7 THAT THE
GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET DECIDED ON TIMING OF SIGNING
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AGREEMENT BUT THAT HE HOPED IT
COULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS. IN MEANTIME
PRESS HAS SPECULATED IN PAST FEW DAYS THAT IT COULD
TAKE PLACE BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 18 AND 21. END SUMMARY.

2. CONSERVATIVE UUSI SUOMI REPORTED SEPTEMBER 6 THAT
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC) AGREEMENT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN
BRUSSELS ON SEPTEMBER 18 WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
KARJALAINEN SIGNING ON BEHALF OF FINLAND. ON FOLLOWING
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DAY, KARJALAINEN DENIED THAT DECISION HAD BEEN MADE

THOUGH HE HOPED SIGNING COULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS. TODAY, SEPTEMBER 7, THE PRESS QUOTING UPI REPORT IN BRUSSELS STATES THAT FINNISH GOVERNMENT HAD INFORMED EC COMMISSION IT PLANS SIGNING ON EITHER SEPTEMBER 20 OR 21.

2. EMBASSY COMMENT. FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE RESPONDED TO OUR INQUIRY REPEATING ESSENTIALLY POSITION TAKEN SEPTEMBER 6 BY KARJALAINEN BUT ADDED THAT FINNISH AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS UNDOUBTEDLY IS IN TOUCH WITH EC COMMISSION TO DETERMINE SUITABLE SIGNING DATE ONCE DECISION IS MADE BY FINLAND. PRESS SPECULATIONS ON SIGNING DATES APPEAR TO BE CONJECTURES BASED ON COMBINATION OF FACTORS: (A) PARLIAMENT'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETS ON SEPTEMBER 18 TO DECIDE ON DOMESTIC ECONOMIC MEASURES WHICH HAVE BEEN TIED TO EC AGREEMENT; (B) EC COMMISSION REPORTEDLY WILL MEET ON SAME DAY; (C) KARJALAINEN MAY WISH TO SIGN EC AGREEMENT BEFORE ATTENDING UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING; AND (D) TACTICAL MANEUVERINGS IN FINLAND INDICATING SIGNING WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE DOMESTIC ECONOMIC MEASURES ARE APPROVED. IN SUBSTANCE, DESPITE FURTHER CONFUSIONS AND EFFORTS BY OPPOSITION GROUPS TO BLOCK SIGNING SUCH EFFORTS APPEAR UNLIKELY TO PREVENT FAVORABLE DECISION IN NEAR FUTURE.
KREHBIEL

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